

THE RIC-A-DAM-DOO

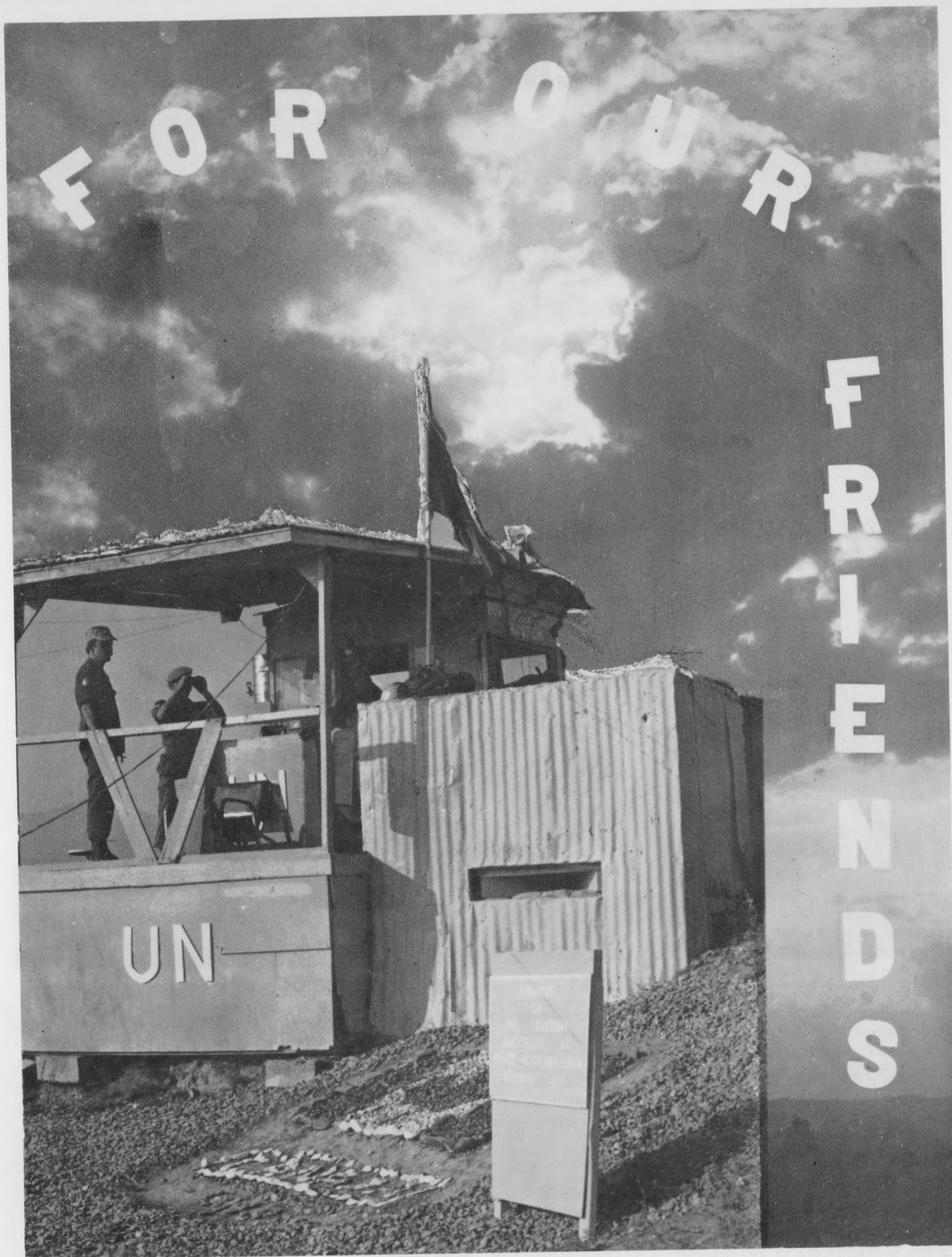


*The First Battalion in Cyprus
April - October 1978*



F O R O U R

F R I E N D S



COMMANDER CANADIAN CONTINGENT

BGEN J.A. COTTER, CD



I am pleased to be able to include my remarks in this journal of 1 PPCLI's tour with the United Nations Force in Cyprus. Having seen all issues of the RIC-A-DAM-DOO since my arrival I know that the photographs and articles contained herein reflect the enthusiasm, resourcefulness, competence and comradeship you have displayed here.

The excellent manner in which you have performed your duties in Sector 4 has earned you the respect of everyone in the United Nations Force as well as that of the protagonists in the dispute. You have made the most of your off-duty time and leave, and have more than held your own in the inter-contingent sports events and competitions.

Every one of you is returning to Canada a more knowledgeable, self-reliant and experienced professional soldier than he was only six short months ago. You have derived much from your associations with the other contingents and have gained an insight into the problems confronting the inhabitants of this island nation; problems that could all too easily become a Canadian reality if tolerance and understanding are disregarded. I trust that each of you will have a deeper appreciation for Canada and for all Canadians.

1 PPCLI has represented Canada and your Regiment well. I am proud to have been Commander of the Canadian Contingent during your tour — my best wishes to all of you for continued success in the future.

COMMANDING OFFICER

L COL LW MacKENZIE, CD



It hardly seems possible that it's time to prepare my "final Cyprus Message". They say time goes fast when you are having fun. Well, we must have had a hell of a time as I've never had six months go by so quickly.

I'm basically a superstitious person and consequently I hate recalling and complimenting you on our accomplishments before the wheels of Main 2 leave the Akrotiri runway. However, I do not have much choice and will recall this message from the newspaper if we have a major disaster during the last few weeks.

No unit has ever had a more successful tour on the island. Operationally you have kept the situation quiet by your operational efficiency at all levels. When it came time for competitions, both military and athletic, with other contingents, we annihilated them by winning more major events than any unit before us. The Brits dislike us because we outfoxed and outran them in the Military Skills competition and the Swedes just plain hate us because they keep coming second.

Overall, the unit has lost approximately a ton and a half of fat and has run collectively over twice around the world. We are fitter than when we arrived and our wives, girlfriends etc. can't help but notice.

The greatest benefit arising from the tour is the fact that we got to know each other much better. We go home a more

tightly knit unit, and even though we are forced to reorganize on arrival, we still can't help but benefit in the future from this increased knowledge of each others abilities.

For those of you who have been attached to 1PPCLI during our tour, I hope you will always consider yourself Patricias. If you are ever at a Base and hear of a Patricia celebration, insist that you are invited. You have paid your dues in full and we all thank you for your support.

Soon we will have to turn our thoughts to collective training in Canada. Our aim will be to prepare ourselves for the summer concentration in Wainwright. By that time we must be the best infantry battalion in the Forces or we will have failed to achieve our aim. I'm confident we will not fail, and achieving that aim should be half the fun. The other half will be had in Wainwright.

Dare I say that we have been lucky and have survived our tour without a death or serious injury? The previous unit did so and then regrettably were advised that a member of their advance party was killed in an automobile accident while on disembarkation leave. Please don't let us suffer the same tragic fate. Take care of yourself during your leave — enjoy it, you have earned it — but report back to duty mobile and in one piece. NICOSIA SECURE.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR CWO W.A. COLBOURNE, CD



As we approach the end of "Holding The Line" in Nicosia, Cyprus, it is unbelievable that six months have gone by so quickly.

As one turns one's thoughts towards going home and another Canadian winter, I think it is only fair that we reflect back on what Cyprus has meant to us professionally and as individuals:

- By virtue of the nature of the job — boredom, lots of time to think — I would suggest that each and every one of us know ourselves just a little bit better now than what we would have had we not had the opportunity to serve here;
- We have a better understanding of the team and the part that everyone, from the Commanding Officer to the most junior private, plays in it. You remember when the guy in your section got caught and was no longer around — how everyone else had to do his work. If you were the one that pulled the extra shifts, you know how you felt, and the guy who got caught knows as well;
- Self discipline is made essential by the very way in which we live in Cyprus (lack of privacy, commanders always around, never able to get away from the job completely). When you felt that you just could not take it any more, after taking a moment to pause and reflect, you came to the realization that many could kill you but none could eat you.

The list could go on and on but there is no point in belabouring known facts.

The majority of us will not remember Cyprus for its frustrating moments, but if we have taken full advantage of time off, then Cyprus will be remembered for its sun, warm waters, history, the companionship that has aspired over the past six months, and above all else, just how much all members of the 1 PPCLI family mean to each other.

No matter what your load station, whether it be the soldier on the line or a member of the augmentee staff, what you have been required to do, you have done well — in the true light of professionals. As well, special thanks must go to the wives and girl friends in Canada who through their dedication to your job have kept the old homestead stable, thus allowing you the peace of mind to get on with the job at hand.

As well, a special thank you must go to all members of the rear party who, through a lot of hard work, have carried out competently and professionally our commitments at home.

I look forward to the months ahead; going from fun in the sun to a hole in the snow, where all of our energies must be directed towards refreshing, and in a lot of cases, relearning, our basic battle skills so we are prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

"STOKER — DON'T EAT THE YELLOW SNOW."

Remember the motto, "Work hard — play hard — and if you get caught — you pay."

To the guys with the strongest arms in NATO — have a safe but good leave — you deserve it.